

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 25, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully noted. The Applicant acknowledges with thanks the Action's indication that the subject matter of claim 9 would be allowable over the prior art of record if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing Amendment and the comments set forth below.

By this Amendment, indicated allowable claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1, which has been cancelled. Accordingly, claim 2-9 are pending in the instant application.

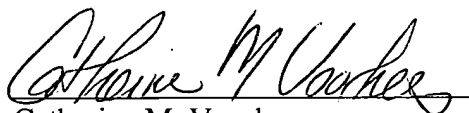
While the Applicant does not agree that Lagogue teaches a back support with freedoms of movement in a plurality of directions relative to the implement, in order to expedite the prosecution of the instant application, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is believed that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

In particular, indicated-allowable claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form and original claims 2-8 now depend either directly or indirectly from indicated-allowable claim 9. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this Amendment After Final Rejection places the application in condition for allowance; does not raise new issues that require further consideration and/or search as the changes to claim 9 merely incorporate the features of original claim 1; and do not raise issue of new matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment After Final Rejection be entered and this application be passed to issuance.

Should the Examiner believe that a conference would advance the prosecution of this application, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 19, 2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Catherine M. Voorhees", written over a horizontal line.

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